

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8727

INFO USMISSION, IAEA VIENNA 0049

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3640

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, IAEA, SF

SUBJ: STATUS SOUTH AFRICA CONSIDERATION NPT

REF: CAPE TOWN 312

1. ON OCTOBER 2, ECON COUNSELOR REVIEWED PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG OFFICIALS OF THEIR CONSIDERATION NPT ADHERENCE WITH JOHN OXLEY, DEPT FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. OXLEY'S OFFICE HAS BECOME ACTION DESK FOR SUBJECT FOLLOWING SOME REORGANIZATION IN DFA. ALTHOUGH RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TEHRAN, OXLEY APPEARED WELL READ-IN ON SUBJECT. RECALLING PARTICULARLY DCM'S DISCUSSION WITH FONSEC FOURIE FOLLOWING CONCLUSION IAEA-EURATOM SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT, EMBOFF ASKED FOR LATEST POSITION.

2. OXLEY SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO (RPT NO) BASIC ADVANCE IN SAG POSITION ALTHOUGH MATTER CONTINUED UNDER STUDY. THEY WOULD BE FOCUSING FURTHER AS RESULT DISCUSSIONS AT RECENT IAEA SESSION IN VIENNA. HE NOTED THAT DR. ROUX, HEAD SA ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD (SAAEB), HAD NOT YET RETURNED FROM TRIP TO VIENNA AND OTHER POINTS.

3. OXLEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VARIOUS DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS MODEL NPT SAFEGUARD AGREEMENT (INFCIRC 153) HAD MET SEVERAL PAST SAG CONCERNS. HE AVOIDED COMMENTING DIRECTLY ON IMPLICATIONS IAEA-EURATOM AGREEMENT, WHICH EMBOFF AGAIN RECALLED AS INDICA-
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TION THAT INSPECTION OF ENRICHMENT PLANTS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLY NON-OBTRUSIVE. OXLEY DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT SAAEB'S CONCERN

FOR SECRECY OF ITS ENRICHMENT PROCESS REMAINED MAJOR FACTOR
AND BOARD OFFICIALS WERE HOLDING BACK.

4. COMMENT: OXLEY'S SUGGESTION THAT SAAEB CONCERN REMAINS
CENTRAL OBSTACLE TO ADHERENCE APPEARS SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE
WITH RECENT STATEMENT BY SAAEB OFFICIAL NEWBY-FRASER TO EMBOFF
THAT CONSIDERATION NPT HAD MOVED INTO POLITICAL SPHERE AND SAAEB
COULD ONLY ADVISE. DR. ROUX, HOWEVER, HAS CONSISTENTLY SAID HE
MUST BE SATISFIED THAT SECRECY OF SA'S ENRICHMENT PROCESS WILL
NOT (RPT NOT) BE COMPROMISED BEFORE HE WILL RECOMMEND TO PRIME
MINISTER THAT SAG ADHERE TO NPT. IT IS RECALLED HE TOOK
POSITION EARLIER THAT SA ENRICHMENT FACILITY INSPECTION PROBLEM
MORE DIFFICULT THAN EUROPEAN SITUATION SINCE NATURE OF PROCESS
LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED THERE ALREADY KNOWN. EMBASSY IS NOT
(RPT NOT) INFORMED WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN OPPORTUNITY DISCOUNT
THIS POSTURE ON ROUX'S PART THROUGH TECHNICAL DISCUSSION AT
VIENNA OR ELSEWHERE. MEANWHILE, OXLEY'S COMMENTS SUGGESTED,
ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY SO, THAT SAG'S IAEA REP,
VON SCHIRNDING, CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND ADHERENCE NPT. SMITH

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